

## SLACKERS OFFER UNIQUE EXCUSES

They Find Many Fantastic Reasons for Trying to Avoid Military Service.

### TRIBUNALS HEARING PLEAS

Indications Are That Married Men Soon Will Be Called to Colors.

LONDON, March 18.—Military service tribunals, consisting of anywhere from seven to twenty members, are sitting throughout England hearing applications for exemption from men eligible at the front. Many complaints have begun to go up over the leniency shown by the tribunals to single men, who have offered rather fantastic reasons for evading service in the army. Complete exemption has been granted in comparatively few cases, but postponements have been most frequent, and the tribunals now are being warned that every single man excused means the earlier calling out of the groups of married men attested under the Derby plan.

There is every indication that it will not be long after April 1 next when the first of the married men will be called to the colors. Thus far the married men in the army have gone only through voluntary enlistment. The compulsory service act does not apply to them as yet, but thousands have attested their readiness to serve when the supply of single men is exhausted.

Many single men, with mothers or sisters dependent upon them, are making the claim that their domestic duties are just as sacred and just as deserving of the nation's consideration as those of the married men. They make the further plea that their family obligations are imposed on them through no act of their own, whereas the married man assumed liability for others through voluntary choice.

"If I am to be called away from the support of my widowed mother and three dependent sisters," said one young clerk, "I will be followed by the thought that they must eventually go to the workhouse, and I am sure that under the circumstances I would not make a very good soldier for the King."

### GLORIES IN HIS SUCCESS

Commander of the Moeve Describes Feelings When He Had Eighteen British Captives Before Him.

BERLIN, March 18 (via wireless).—An item given out by the Overseas News Agency says: "Count Dohna-Schloden, in command of the German commerce raider Moeve during his pursuit of British vessels in the Atlantic, and who brought the Moeve safely into port, during a stay in his castle at Millwitz, Silesia, declared in a speech: "I wish you could feel what I have experienced. Perhaps it was the greatest thing a man can experience. I have seen what Germans are capable of doing. You can imagine my feelings when on one day I had before me eighteen British captains, and told them, 'These are the practices of the German fleet.' When we had sent away Lieutenant Berg with the Appam, and also the steamer Westburn, the time had come for us to go home."

Count Dohna also described his reception by Emperor William at the latter's headquarters, and in closing, said: "I only did my duty."

### TO EXPLOIT MINING INDUSTRY

American Financiers Will Develop Gold-Bearing Properties of the Rand, South Africa.

LONDON, March 18.—A group of American financiers, headed by Adolph Lewisohn & Sons, has arranged with London capitalists to develop extensive gold-bearing properties of the eastern Rand, South Africa. The project involves the expenditure of several million pounds. This is the first time that American capital has been sought for the exploitation of the Rand mining industry. On account of the war, it was impossible to raise sufficient funds from English sources.

The new American capital suppliers that of German banks and financiers who prior to the war played an important part in the region.

### MANY ASK FOR PARDONS

President Sends to Department of Justice Forty-Four Applications Decided During Week.

WASHINGTON, March 18.—A deluge of applications for pardons, unequaled in many years, has been pouring into the Department of Justice within the past few months. The high-water mark was reached yesterday, when President Wilson sent to the department the forty-four applications he has decided this week. It was denied, as were twenty-eight others. Eleven were approved.

In President Roosevelt's second term 502 applications were filed, an average of 201 a year. President Taft considered 1,184 applications. In the three years of President Wilson's term he has considered nearly 1,000. Last month the number of applications received was more than five times as many as five months ago. In two-thirds of the cases considered by President Wilson clemency has been shown. President Taft pardoned or commuted the sentences of 70 per cent of those who asked for clemency, and President Roosevelt about 60 per cent.

### HELD AS SPY IN FRANCE

German Governess Tried by Court-Martial and Sentenced to Life Imprisonment.

BERNE, March 18.—According to a report which reached the Bund, Miss Hedwig Obermeyer, a governess from Ulm, in Wurttemberg, has been imprisoned for life as a spy in France. The young woman was in the service of a French family at Lyons when the war broke out. With a number of other Germans, she was arrested and sent to a concentration camp, but the authorities a few weeks later released her and sent her to Geneva, from where she went to her native city.

Shortly afterwards she accepted a position in Switzerland, and about six months ago she disappeared. According to the story published by the Bund, she returned to France, where she is said to have been arrested for espionage, tried by a court-martial and sentenced to life imprisonment.

## GERMAN FASHIONS IN FRANCE

Officer Writes How in Certain Sections on Western Front Patterns Are Widely Copied.

[Special Cable to The Times-Dispatch.] BERLIN, March 18.—A German officer writes from the western front: "My company has been holding a certain town in Eastern France for more than a year, and we get along pretty well with the inhabitants. I have my quarters in the house of the Mayor, a wealthy brewer and landowner. In my capacity as commander of the town I have to see the Mayor almost daily on business, and his family, which consists of his wife, two charming daughters, a daughter-in-law and two female relatives, sometimes invite me to tea.

"As I speak French fluently, I won the esteem and confidence of the ladies. They took charge of my limited wardrobe and mended my shirts, underclothing and socks. To show myself grateful, I procured a few French books from Germany for them. After a while I found out they were sadly missing the fashion journals, which they had received regularly before the war.

"As I was not able to get French papers of this kind, I wrote home for a number of copies of German ladies' magazines. When the journals arrived, my hostesses ran through them excitedly, but they found everything 'horrid.' Two or three weeks later the wife and the daughters of the Mayor asked me for a passport to the nearest large city behind our front. They explained that they had decided to have a few costumes made after the German patterns furnished by me, as some of them really were 'not so bad.' The dresses arrived in a short time, and then my magazines went from house to house, with the result that to-day quite a number of French ladies are wearing the fashions of the German barbarians."

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## MEXICO IN TURMOIL SINCE DIAZ'S DAY

With Rod of Iron He Had Kept Autocratic Peace for Several Generations.

### FIVE YEARS OF BLOODY STRIFE

Suffering, Bloodshed and Robbery Prevailing Conditions in Many Sections of Republic.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.] WASHINGTON, March 18.—Porfirio Diaz resigned the presidency of Mexico May 26, 1911, after ruling Mexico with a rod of iron and keeping an autocratic peace for several generations. Since then there has been nothing but turmoil, suffering, bloodshed, robbery and debauchery in many of the fairest sections of the republic.

Only those who have followed the situation closely can name all the revolutions and counter-revolutions, first chiefs and great bandit leaders who have arisen, fought, and fallen in these bloody five years.

The disorders had started shortly before Diaz fell, in November, 1910, when the well-meaning Francisco I. Madero, after, as he thought, being elected out of the presidential election, raised the standard of revolt in the north.

He entered the capital a conqueror on June 8, 1911, and replaced Francisco Leon de la Barra, who had automatically become President when Diaz resigned. De la Barra had been Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Diaz's peace had also been endangered by the bandits of the Zapata brothers, Emiliano and Eufelio, leaders of the peasantry of the southwest of the capital.

The Zapatas cheered for Madero, afterward they fought him, they fought indeed with all the controllers of the capital, except for a short period of alliance with Villa.

When Madero was inaugurated President on November 9, 1911, he believed an era of peace and prosperity was dawning. But troubles multiplied instead of diminishing.

On January 31, 1912, a new revolt of importance began with a battle in Ciudad Juarez, opposite El Paso, and a considerable number were killed on both sides. The next day Emilio Gomez, who had rebelled against Madero, was proclaimed Provisional Governor. On February 5 President Taft sent four battalions of United States regulars to the Rio Grande to protect the border.

Madero tried to compromise with the rebels and offered Pascual Orozco the governorship of Chihuahua. Orozco declined and on February 7 went over to the rebels.

The fighting in the north against Orozco and in the south against the Zapatistas continued throughout the summer.

### DIAZ SURRENDERS

AT POINT OF PISTOL. On October 12, 1912, Felix Diaz, a nephew of the deposed President, put himself at the head of a few hundred men and seized Vera Cruz, the chief seaport of Mexico. His revolution was of short duration, for, on October 23, Madero's forces entered Vera Cruz, waving white flags and crying "Viva Felix Diaz!"

Then when Diaz was greeting the officers of the newcomers they pointed their pistols at his head and he had to surrender.

Diaz was taken to Mexico City and put in jail there, and at first Madero declared that he would be put to death, together with General Bernardo Reyes, who had tried to start another revolution in the north and had been captured. Many petitions were made to Madero to spare the lives of those two men, and he listened to the pleas and postponed action. In the meantime the secret agents of Diaz and Reyes were working against Madero in the army, and early on the morning of February 5, 1913, the First Cavalry and part of the mounted police and other soldiers liberated Diaz from Belen prison, while cadets from the military school, at Tlalpam, a suburb of Mexico City, liberated General Reyes from the penitentiary.

Reyes and Diaz, with their liberators, went to the National Palace and attempted to take possession of it, but were repulsed by the Twenty-ninth Infantry, which formed the police guard. There was a sharp fight. General Reyes was killed at its beginning, and machine guns were turned loose on the roof of the palace, sweeping the crowded Zocalo, or main plaza, and the Avenida de San Francisco, which was thronged with people going to church. Diaz and his men were driven off after many of the cavalrymen had been killed and on the plaza 619 non-combatants were killed, according to the official records of the police.

Diaz and his men stormed the Cuicadela, or arsenal, about a mile from the National Palace, and took it after a fight lasting half an hour. There they found huge stores of arms and ammunition and prepared for a siege. All day Sunday and Monday they remained quietly in the Cuicadela, while Madero was gathering his forces to oust them. The battle began in the city on the morning of February 11 and continued until February 18, with a daily cannonading and machine-gun and rifle firing between the Cuicadela and the palace and many other places where the Federals had planted batteries. In the "Decena Trágica," as the time of the battle is called in Mexico, more than 4,000 persons, mostly non-combatants, were killed and about 15,000 wounded.

### HUERTA AND DIAZ AGREE

ON OVERTHROW OF MADERO. February 18 General Victoriano Huerta, who had been commanding the Madero forces, met Felix Diaz at the American embassy by request of the American ambassador, Henry Lane Wilson, and they came to an agreement for the overthrow of Madero as the only means to stop the fighting.

(Continued on Third Page.)

## Canadian Troops and Leaders in French Uprising



These pictures show three prominent leaders of the movement to prevent the subordination of French to English in the public bilingual schools of Canada. Above is Cardinal Bevin, a powerful cleric of Quebec; Henri Bourassa, the strongest fighter for French rights; right, Armand Lavergne, another able French Canadian. Above is a picture of Canadian troops training in the snow. The language agitation is interfering with recruiting.

## SUFFERING OF GALICIAN HOSTAGES IS TERRIBLE

They Are Imprisoned in Siberian Camps, and Undergo Frightful Deprivations.

### ALL ARE HUNGRY AND COLD

Allowance for Food Is Not Sufficient, and Many Have Died of Starvation—Complaints to Officers Worse Than Useless.

[Special Cable to The Times-Dispatch.] PETROGRAD, March 18.—The Tomsk correspondent of the Liberal Russian paper Don sends a long account of the sufferings of the Galician hostages who were deported to Siberia by the Russian military authorities in the early stages of the war.

The hostages, mostly Galician Jews, were sent to the districts of Narynsk, Kelpashevsk and Moltshanosk of the Province of Tomsk. They are herded together in the villages of Narym, Paradel, Kelpashevo and Moltshanosk. Only a few of them are military prisoners. Of the 2,000 unfortunates who are imprisoned in the four villages, 99 per cent never wore a uniform in their lives. They simply were dragged away to the key Siberian wilderness to terrify their coreligionists and to punish them for alleged espionage.

Their sufferings are shared by about 500 Russian "political criminals," labor leaders, students and scientists, who are accused of revolutionary agitation.

When the hostages arrived in the Province of Tomsk there were no quarters ready for them, and they had to camp in tents in a temperature of 30 degrees below zero. Later miserable huts were erected. These so-called houses are devoid of every comfort and sanitary improvement, but the prisoners now at least have a roof over their heads.

### HOSTAGES CONTINUALLY ON VERGE OF STARVATION

All of the deported hostages are continually on the verge of starvation. They have to buy their own food, and for this purpose they only receive \$2.30 per month each from the Russian government. Their allowance is paid to them very irregularly. Most of the prisoners are in rags or wear queer garments made of old bags. Last fall they sent a petition to the Minister of the Interior asking for clothing and a higher allowance, but they never received an answer. Money sent to them by their relatives at home never reached them.

By the local policemen or "strashniki" the prisoners are treated with the utmost brutality. If they dare to protest they are assaulted and often whipped. To utter complaints is perfectly useless, because the "pristov," or chief of police, always answers: "The strashniki are ignorant fellows who do not know any better. You must not take their rude behavior so hard."

The hostages have sent many telegrams and letters to the Duma, the correspondent of the "Don" says in his much censored report.

"Parliament does not seem to be able to do anything for them, though. As the food prices have gone up 50 per cent in the last eight months, the unfortunates cannot live on their \$2.30 a month, and many of them have actually died from starvation.

## CRAWLING FROM TRENCH IS UNPLEASANT MOMENT

That Is Time Which Strikes Terror to Heart of Soldier About to Charge.

### FIRST WAVE ALWAYS DOOMED

Military Experts Regard Men in Front Rank During Attack as Certain to Be Killed—Work of Trench Knife.

[Special Cable to The Times-Dispatch.] PARIS, March 18.—During a talk I had with a very young volunteer, who, after having recovered from wounds received in the great Champagne offensive in September last, had again spent several months at the front, I asked him what he considered his most unpleasant memory. Without a moment's hesitation, he replied: "The most unpleasant moment of the war is the one in which you are just crawling out of your trench to attack the enemy. Your feeling then resembles the one which comes to you when you are about to dive from a very high place into water which you know is cold and shallow."

"An offensive is somewhat like a succession of waves breaking against a granite jetty. The first wave is nearly always broken up entirely. The only chance you have is to be wounded the very moment you leave your trench, so that you may crawl back again unharmed."

Many officers have assured me that in military circles the men who form the front rank during an attack or counterattack are looked upon as doomed.

They are either killed by a hail of bullets from the machine guns, and victory goes to the men of the second, third or fourth wave, or, if the attack fails, they are battered by the enemy's machine guns, and they are not wanted to be hampered in his counter-attack.

I have never heard any French soldier directly accuse the Germans of killing the wounded, but neither have I heard any one express indignation at what is technically termed "clean out a trench."

They all seem to look upon it as an absolute military necessity. Hand grenades and knives are used for this purpose, the bayonet hardly ever. I have often heard soldiers, home on furlough, and especially soldiers from the south, the home of the famous "Tartarin of Tarascon," boast of their smart work with "Rosale" (the French soldier's pet name for his bayonet).

But a military surgeon who has treated nearly 1,000 wounded, tells me that of all these, only two were suffering from bayonet wounds. One of these had been wounded by his own bayonet while jumping into a trench, and the other had been asleep on his post and had been surprised by a German, who had run his bayonet into him.

The trench knife, however, is often used with great effect.

### NEW HOSPITAL AT CALCUTTA

Corner-Stone of Institution for Study of Tropical Diseases Is

CALCUTTA, March 18.—The corner-stone has just been laid here of a new hospital for tropical diseases, the first institution of its kind to be established in the tropical portion of the British empire.

## VIEW OF CHAMBERLAIN SEEM TO BE VINDICATED

If Late British Statesman Were Alive To-Day He Would Rejoice Over Triumph of Principles.

### BLOW IS DEALT TO FREE TRADE

Germany Admits That if England Carries Out Plan Now Contemplated, It Will Now Staggering Hardship on That Country.

[Special Cable to The Times-Dispatch.] LONDON, March 18.—If the late Joseph Chamberlain were alive to-day, he would rejoice at the many signs of a coming revival of his tariff policy, particularly those official indications in the report by the commission on commercial intelligence appointed by the Board of Trade.

The task given to the commission was to investigate and discuss precautions which ought to be taken in order to promote the development of certain branches of British industry after the war.

The report is, from beginning to end, a most complete vindication of the principles for which the late statesman fought so eloquently and persistently until stricken down by sickness.

In Germany it is admitted that if the measures advocated are carried out, it will be a staggering blow to that country.

The measures recommended are, however, almost identical with Germany's own plan of a great central European custom union.

The free-trade advocates, whose chief London mouthpiece is the Daily News, already see their idol in danger. Commenting on the commission's report, the Daily News says: "We hope and believe that this war will be fought to a finish on the battle field, not in the market. If we fail in the object, it is possible that the commercial war may succeed the war of armies, and measures will have to be taken to insure success in this, too. But until the need arises it is something worse than useless to discuss them."

Many prominent champions of the policy of free trade in England have during the war become convinced that if Great Britain is to enter into fresh competition for the markets of the world after the war with a thoroughly organized Germany, which is even now perfecting plans for a powerful custom coalition directed against the entente powers, this country must drop free trade and prepare to fight the German coalition with its own weapons.

### KILLED IN AIR BATTLE

Count Jacques Decezes, Military Aviator, Falls Dead Inside German Lines.

PARIS, March 18.—Count Jacques Decezes, military aviator, and brother of Duke Decezes, has just been killed in an air battle. He had just succeeded in bringing down a German aeroplane after a long duel when his own machine was struck by an inflammable dart fired by another German aeroplane. The count's machine burst into flames and fell inside the German lines.

## OMINOUS DANGER FACING CANADA

Civil Struggle Threatens Between French and English-Speaking Peoples.

### FEELING AT HIGH PITCH

Already There Have Been Serious Riots and Refusals to Pay Taxes.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.] OTTAWA, ONT., March 18.—While making the greatest effort of her history in the great European war, Canada is to-day threatened with a second ominous danger, a civil struggle between the 2,000,000 French-speaking inhabitants and the 6,000,000 English-speaking persons within her boundaries.

Already there are serious riots, refusals to pay taxes, bitter debates in Parliament, steps to form a "war fund," a well-organized movement to prevent recruiting for Canada's army abroad, and threats of "secession."

The fight centers over the famous "Regulation 17," and the principle at stake is the right of the French tongue not only to be taught in all public schools of the Province of Ontario, but to have equal prominence in the curriculum with English.

The Province of Quebec is overwhelmingly French. Of the 2,000,000 French-speaking Canadians, 75 per cent live there. Adjoining Quebec is the most southerly and the most important province in Canada, Ontario, which has 200,000 French-speaking inhabitants out of a population of 2,500,000, most of them in the city of Ottawa, capital of the Dominion.

### FRENCH RIGHTS DATE BACK TO TREATY OF PARIS

The French Canadians' rights date back to the treaty of Paris, by which France recognized England's sovereignty in Canada, and the French Canadians were allowed to retain their language, customs and religion. To-day a member in the Canadian Parliament may deliver a speech either in English or French, and all public documents are printed in both languages.

The trouble first began several decades ago, when English-speaking Catholics of Ontario complained that their children were not being taught in English, that French in the Catholic public schools had become the sole language between teachers and children.

About 1885 an agitation was begun in Ontario to restrict the use of French in the schools, and after many years of fierce controversy, the provincial government in 1911 held an inquiry and found the French-English schools were inefficient and irregular.

The measure known as "Regulation 17" was passed. This enacts that English must be taught in all bilingual schools. It must be the language of communication and instruction after the first two years, unless the inspectors in specific cases deem it best that longer than two years for teaching in French be allowed. After the first two years, each child must be taught in English, that of French.

Thus, while the regulation went a long way from abolishing French and, in fact, specifically protected it, the language was clearly made subordinate to English.

French-speaking Quebec was enraged by this action of its sister province. An agitation, with Henri Bourassa at its head, began against the regulation. Two hundred schools in Ontario forfeited the provincial school grant rather than observe the regulation, and the government inspectors were threatened with violence.

The leaders of the movement are profiting by the distraction of the war to press their claims. Riots occurred in this city when the inspectors attempted to carry out the new law. Women have loaded themselves inside some of the schools, and the police were attacked with fists, finger nails, clubs and red pepper.

### CHILDREN STAY AT HOME

AND PARADE STREETS. Children stay home from school and parade the streets, 4,000 or 5,000 strong, with banners and war cries. The parents direct and encourage the demonstrations.

Several sorts of court action have been started. The most ominous side of the situation is, seen not at Ontario, the seat of the trouble, but in Quebec. The legislature of Quebec has passed, by a vote of 45 to 3, an act to allow the municipalities of the province to appropriate 5 per cent of their taxes for a "war fund" to fight the Ontario Legislature.

Although numerically inferior, most of the wealth of Quebec is in the hands of the English-speaking citizens. It is they who will have to pay the "war fund," and they are not protesting. Members of Parliament say the French-Canadian of Quebec will start a revolution rather than yield.

In Ottawa the French-Canadians have refused to pay any more taxes until they gain their point. The English-speaking majority is equally firm in insisting that "Regulation 17" be carried out.

The agitation is led by men of intelligence, church leaders, school trustees, city Aldermen and members of Parliament. The Speaker of the Canadian Senate and the former Speaker of the Canadian Commons are in sympathy with the French movement, and have sat silent and apparently approving when hearing the Canadian courts of justice abused for opposing the bilingualists.

(Continued on Third Page.)